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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Terrorists use schoolchildren as human shields - Hurriyet
Terrorist shock for Putin - Turkiye
Day of horror in Russia - Vatan
Chechen terrorists point guns at innocent children - Sabah
Terror wave in Russia - Milliyet
Terror targets children in Russia - Milliyet
Greek Cypriots hold mass in 'TRNC' after 30 years - Vatan
US promises security for Turkish truckers in Iraq - Turkiye
Qaddafi regrets his 30-year anti-US policies - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

US to transport weapons through Turkey - Cumhuriyet
Terror takes Russian schoolchildren hostage - Cumhuriyet
School raid cast shadow on historic Putin visit - Cumhuriyet
School raid in northern Ossetia - Yeni Safak
'True Lies 2' by Schwarzenegger - Cumhuriyet
550 anti-Bush demonstrators detained - Yeni Safak
Historic mass for Greek Cypriots - Radikal
Sharon angry, Israel may strike Syria - Zaman
Chalabi at gunpoint - Radikal

BRIEFING

Putin cancels Turkey visit: Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is struggling to resolve a hostage situation at a school in southern Russia, called off his planned visit to Turkey on Thursday. The Kremlin announced that Putin had postponed his trip, which will be rescheduled at an unspecified date. News of the cancellation was carried on all Turkish television outlets this morning.

Ambassador Edelman pledges enhanced security for Turks in Iraq: US Ambassador Eric Edelman said after meeting with FM Abdullah Gul on Wednesday that some Turkish truck drivers in Iraq would be protected by US military escorts. Edelman touched on the gravity of the situation in Iraq, and stressed that the killing of an engineer who merely aimed to contribute to the rebuilding of Iraq caused great sorrow for the American people. "Radikal" quotes FM Gul as warning Edelman that all Turkish companies working in Iraq may have to leave the country if their security is not guaranteed. 'We have established with the MFA a mechanism for cooperation on this issue,' the Ambassador emphasized. Edelman also noted that the US is working on possible direct flights to northern Cyprus and other measures to ease the isolation of Turkish Cypriots.

US to use Turkish ports, airports: An MFA regulation outlining the transfer of US military equipment through Turkey took effect on Wednesday, papers report. The dispatch of US military support material through Turkey will be made through Turkish ports at Istanbul, Izmir, Iskenderun, Yumurtalik, Antalya, Aksaz-Karaagac and Agalar, or airports at Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Adana, Antalya and Aksaz-Dalaman.

Erdogan urges release of French journalists in Iraq: PM Erdogan on Wednesday condemned the wave of hostage-taking in Iraq and urged the release of two French journalists threatened with execution by insurgents. 'We are upset by developments in Iraq. Such terrorist actions, killings of innocent people have nothing to do with Islam,' Erdogan noted. 'Those who have undertaken this action should reconsider their position. This will only cause them to lose credibility,' he said.

Greek Cypriots hold mass in Turkish Cyprus: Nearly 2,000 Greek Cypriots attended an evening mass in a church in the Turkish northern sector of divided Cyprus amid heavy security measures. It was the first time in 30 years that a

mass was held in the Saint Mamas church in the town of Guzelyurt (Morphou). The windows, roof and door of the church had been damaged in an explosion last Friday. TRNC PM Mehmet Ali Talat paid a brief visit to the church while the service was in progress as a gesture of good will to the Greek Cypriot visitors. Talat wished success to Turkish and Greek Cypriots in their efforts for peace, and was applauded by Greek Cypriots. Meanwhile, a group of some 100 Turkish Cypriots held a rival religious ceremony in a mosque near the church in memory of compatriots killed in inter-communal fighting on the island 30 years ago. Contrary to an earlier announcement, the mosque did not broadcast the prayers through a loudspeaker on its minaret. Both gatherings dispersed without incident.

Kurdish activists call for an end to fighting: Former Kurdish lawmaker Leyla Zana and three fellow politicians -- Hatip Dicle, Selim Sadak and Orhan Dogan -- warned Wednesday that continued clashes between Kurdish separatists and security forces could derail Turkey's bid to join the EU. 'If a date for EU accession negotiations is not given because of these clashes, the moral responsibility of this will be enormous,' the four former parliament members said in a joint statement. They argued that it would be easier to resolve the Kurdish question if Turkey is brought closer to the EU.

AKP delegation in Israel: The four AK Party lawmakers currently in Israel at the official invitation of the Israeli government met yesterday with Israeli Labor Party leader Shimon Peres. The delegation later conveyed to Palestinian official Saeb Erakat a message of friendship from PM Erdogan. The Turks said their visit was intended to explore ways to support the peace process in the region.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/French Journalists; Chechnya

"Can the Iraqis be That Stupid?"
Melih Asik argued in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (9/2): "Iraqi resistance groups began the resistance by targeting the occupying force -- the Americans. The casualties suffered by the American army have created an enormous problem for the Bush administration with the American public. Over the course of time, there was a major shift in the selection of targets, with US-appointed Iraqi policemen, soldiers and civil servants becoming more frequent victims of violence. Currently, we are seeing a further expansion of the target list to include foreign workers and foreign journalists in Iraq. As seen in the reaction to the kidnapping of the French journalists, sympathy toward the resistance movement is beginning to recede. Muslims around the world are beginning to hold negative views about Iraqis and the resistance. Leaving aside their unhappiness over the US occupation, many are now beginning to take the US side and to view the resistance groups as terrorists. This development is clearly a relief for the Bush administration. But could the Iraqi resistance groups really be so stupid? Who would possibly organize such violent acts while knowing full well that they will not serve to his benefit? There are growing questions about the current situation in Iraq: are those carrying out these kidnappings and murders real resistance groups, or are they being organized by someone else?"

"Putin is right"
Ergun Babahan noted in the mass appeal "Sabah" (9/2): "Recent incidents have given us a glimpse into the growing wave of terrorism Russia. Chechen terrorism began in the twin plane crash last week, and has continued with the subway attack and now the hostage-taking at a school in North Ossetia. This act deserves absolutely no tolerance, even by those who feel sympathy toward the Chechen cause. Such fanatical acts also pave the way for more international chaos. Just imagine the possibility that school children would become subject to terrorist attacks all around the world. The terrorists are claiming that their religiously motivated goal is to achieve Chechnya's independence. Such claims can only put more distance between the world's two major religions. In fact, the terrorists in North Ossetia do not represent any faith. As Putin rightly described them, they are a bunch of bandits. These fundamentalist criminals find scope for their vicious acts in the power vacuum and chaos that is now Chechnya. Human life has no importance for them. Their satisfaction requires more blood and more death. .. The North Ossetia attack is an act against humanity. It only helps to further blacken the image of Islam in the eyes of Westerners. Every person with common sense must stand against such terrorist acts, and must not hesitate to call it for what it is."